

*The Alcester  
Grammar School*

# *Record*

*No. 161, 1994-1995*

Editor : Mr. K.A. Johnson

Typesetting and page make-up :  
Mr C.J.Johnson

# SCHOOL REGISTER

## Welcome September 1994

### Year 7 :

Luke Baddeley, Sarah Berry, Odette Blundell, Gina Brueton, Ian Childs, Sarah Clevely, Jennifer Gilbert, Anna Haigh, Simon Hale, Emily Harris, Stefan Hayward, Luke Humberstone, Gemma Johnson, Andrew Jones, Daniel Kerby, Christopher Long, Katherine Mann, Hayley Mitchell, David Mutton, Amanda Newey, Adam Park, Thomas Poulteney, David Prickett, Mary Richards, Elizabeth Tash, Jeremy Thomas, Amy Vater, Richard Wersocki, John Whitehouse, Simon Willatts.

Adam Bradley, Emily Bratt, Richard Chan, Thomas Coates, Nicholas Daffern, Maria Daniels, Garret Felton, Beverley Fleming, Ben Fletcher, Emma Fraser, Louise Hall, Richard Harper, Zanitta Hay, Steven James, Oliver Lewis, Rebecca Oldham, Harry Philpotts, Melissa Pick, Jonathan Pickett, George Platt, Natalie Port, David Ross, Katherine Rumbles, Lindsay Smith, Lucy Thomas, Suzanne Thomas, Michael Towers, Samuel Tugwell, Julie Vale, Laura Villis, Jonathan Wells, James Wraight.

### Year 12 :

Kathryn Armitage, Darren Ashworth, John Austing, Victoria Ball, Sarah Bate, Christopher Beach, Philip Bennett, Joanne Benstead, Alix Berry, Alison Blades, Claire Bowler, Claire Buesing, Nicola Byrd, Louise Clayton, Sarah Cooper, Zoë Corbett, Claire Crouch, Nicola Fletcher, Kathryn Fox, Steven Gold, Marisol Grandon, Rupert Green, Michelle Griffin, Clare Gunn, Eric Gunnarsson, Robert Hall, Sarah Harries, Christopher Hart, Alison Henstone, Florence Heyland, James Higginson, Louise Howes, Anna Jinks, Karla Johnsey, Janina Jolliffe, Tessa Kettleborough, Wendy Laight, Emma Lloyd, Tristan Meade, Arabella Moorhouse, James Murnieks, Sarah Murphy, Kay Oldham, Alison Page, Charlotte Payne, Joanne Rath, Keri Remes, Benn Richards, Karen Robertson, Jennie Robinson, Daniel Roden, James Scott, Jeffery Sealey, Clare Selby, Laura Shaw, Louisa Soave, Matthew Sparkes, Karen Sweeney, Luke Symmons, Patrick Taylor, Elizabeth Tevenan, Peter Thompson, Clare Townsend, Paul Turner, Thomas Vincent, Matthew Whitehead.

## Staff News

Mrs Ruth Brown who came to teach French and Russian, came as a newly qualified teacher, but with wide prior experience in the world of business. A graduate of the University of Northumbria (French, Russian and Economics),

she made a promising start at the school, but severe illness ended her career with us after only one term.

Mrs Anne Lynch joined us in the spring term as a temporary replacement for Mrs Brown, stepping into her shoes more or less straight off an aircraft from the USA, and serving with distinction until the end of the summer term of 1995.

Mr Robert Briggs came as a part time teacher in the Geography Department, having been for many years Head of Geography at Kineton High School, and for a short time on the staff of Warwick School.

In December 1994 we were sorry to have to say good-bye to Mr Martin Taylor who left the Art Department over which he had presided since September 1986. His contribution to the teaching of Art in the school was quite outstanding and many students past and present have cause to be grateful for his guidance and inspiration. The visits to Prague and Amsterdam in pursuit of Art, which he organised for the sixth form, (and staff), were greatly appreciated. He goes to be head of a large Art department at a sixth form college in Hull, and our good wishes for his success in his new appointment go with him.

Mr Chris Forster left the Biology Department in November 1994 after five years with us. He goes to Johannesburg in South Africa. As a cricket maniac he should find plenty of scope for his talents in that sport-mad country. He did a lot for cricket at AGS as well, and contributed fully as a dedicated and energetic Biology teacher. His departure was a result of his wife being appointed to a senior post in the South African branch of her accountancy practice.

Mrs Peggy Doubleday left temporarily in December 1995 for a four term secondment to the Warwickshire LEA as an Advisory Teacher of English. Obviously the fame of her expertise has spread beyond our boundaries. She should be back in April 1996. Her place was filled by Elissa Cole who came

from an army school in Cyprus.

January 1995 saw the arrival of Rosalind Arno who came for two terms as a temporary replacement for Martin Taylor. She brought particular skill in the textile area but threw herself into all aspects of the Art Department with great enthusiasm.

The gap left by Chris Forster was filled by Tony Gerwitz and Mrs Mary Preston, both of whom had been teachers at the school before and had given stalwart service.

July 1995 saw the re-adjustments resulting from all these temporary infillings, when Ros Arno, Elissa Cole, Tony Gerwitz and Mary Preston all left again., but yet another era ended when three really long serving teachers left.

Brynmor Woodcock left for retirement after twenty-seven years service at the school. Most of his time was spent teaching History, but at one time he taught English as well, and in recent years introduced Law as a sixth form GCSE subject with considerable success. For many years he was in charge of the library at a time when the funds available for it were very slender, and he put in a tremendous effort to catalogue and upgrade the stock. Students enjoyed History with him, especially opportunities to discover political implications and his Welsh connections. His deep knowledge and love for his subject always shone out as did his deeply professional approach to his work. Among his other enthusiasms were cricket, jazz of all kinds and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

Mrs Carmel Hughes came to us originally as a part time teacher of Physics and Mathematics in 1971, but stayed on to work her way up to Head of Department in due course, succeeding Mr Sawyer as Head of Physics on his retirement in 1989. In time she introduced A/S Electronics to the curriculum and made it a success. With Mrs Hughes at the helm the Physics Department continued to enjoy the success it had experienced under Mr Sawyer. She always played a tremendous part in the school's outdoor activities, going

regularly to Marle Hall with Y10 and leading parties on the hills with great skill and enthusiasm. She did the same for our Duke of Edinburgh's Award parties. In conjunction with Mrs Albion (see below) she organised a mountaineering expedition to the Alps in 1989 for sixth formers which was a great success. As if all this were not enough, she was the instigator many years ago of the Annual Swimming Gala for Y7 and organized it every year until her retirement.

Mrs Margaret Albion came to us, again as a part-timer in 1976, becoming full time teacher on the staff in 1980. Although she came to teach Chemistry, she taught Biology at one time, and in due course started Geology, originally as a GCSE taken in the Sixth Form. It became very popular. She went to Marle Hall with Y10 almost every year from 1978 onwards, leading trips on the hills with great skill and verve, and helping to organize the other activities, in due course assuming responsibility for the arrangements for the whole Marle Hall expedition every Autumn. In the Chemistry Department she started up the Food Science option in Y13 and ran it with great success. Finally she ran an excellent and popular First Aid course as part of the Personal and Social Education programme in year 12.

The retirement of Mrs Albion and Mrs Hughes left a large hole in the customary fabric of the life of the school. We were sad to see them go, but wish them every happiness in their retirement, although it does seem that retirement will be an inappropriate word for both of these ladies. Apart from any thing else they intend to continue with helping in the D of E programme.

Finally we congratulate Mrs Karen Banks (formerly a member of the Modern Languages Department) and her husband on the birth of their daughter, Emma Jane, in December 1994

## **Events and Happenings, 1994-95**

### **Autumn Term 1994**

The building of the new extension to the school hall starts. We get the date of

the Ofsted inspection. Fiona Gibson, (Y10), is selected to play hockey for Worcestershire. The U14 Netball team come equal second in the South Warwks Schools tournament, and the U16 Hockey Team reach the quarter finals of a tournament in Coventry. We lose in a penalty shoot out with Shottery, 1-0. The 1st XV Rugby team score some devastating wins against Evesham High School, 74-3 and Arrowvale High School, 61-0, Captain, J. Dover, coach Jan Bonney of Moseley RFC. Hannah Nardini gains work placement at the *Body Shop Design Studio*, and some of her designs are used in the Christmas marketing campaign. *Absolute Beginners* present *Liberty Beat*, an opera set in Celtic/Saxon times. The Y7 trip to Drayton Manor Park takes place. Fifty-one students go to Germany on the annual exchange visit. The Sixth Form European Youth Parliament team take part in a debate at York University. Felicity Burgess and Craig Nichol gain their DoE Bronze Awards. Joe Abbott, Andrew Steele and Lucy Corbett (1994 leavers) receive their Silver Awards at a ceremony in Stratford. The School Concert takes place in November, as does Block Week, and there are various visits to the RST and other theatres. During Block Week, some students go to Paris, others plant hedges on a nature Reserve under Mr German's direction, yet others go orienteering and a few make *Essence of Orange Blossoms* in the Advanced Chemistry Lab.. The Library gets yet more computers and CD Roms. Ofsted's inspection week starts on 5th December, finishing on the 9th. We survive it. The term ends with the PA Christmas Coffee Morning, Leavers' Night, the Carol Service and the Sixth Form Pantomime.

More success in Music. Chris Deeks, Susie Hales, Lisa Pennells and Nikki Humphrey all pass their Grade 8 exams in their various instruments. Lisa and Nikki achieve Merit and Distinction respectively. Ruth Chan sits for the Advanced Certificate in Piano. The Senior Orchestra visits Hewell Grange Prison for the annual Festival of Christmas Music.

The Funding Agency for Schools allocates the money for our new Technology Block. Building to start soon.

## Spring Term 1995

Annalie Croft (Y12), gains her Royal Life Saving Society National Pool Lifeguard Qualification. Alexis Carter (Y8) reaches the National Girls Athletics Ratings - equal fourth in both 70m hurdles and high jump. Rachael Stevens and Lynsey McFarlane (Y9 both) are selected for the final U14 County Hockey trials. Melissa Pick, Louise Hall, Sarah Clevely, Rebecca Oldham, Amy Vater and Lucy Thomas (all Y7) take part in the Junior Cross Country Championships at Henley High School. The Senior Girls and Inter Boys win team awards and the Junior Girls come third. In the Senior Girls, Sarah Bratton comes first and Sarah Harries fifth. Colin Buckle (Y9) is selected for the South/Mid Warwks Rugby squad. Out of school activities are found to include regular sessions of Jazz Dance, Soccer, indoor hockey, and volleyball. Games results include victories over Pershore High 4-3 at U15 indoor hockey, and over Stratford High 16-4 at U14 netball.

HEFT students in Y12, Karen Hubner, Trudi Barr, Louise Howes and Clare Selby come second in the Young Consumer of 1995 Competition organised by Warwks Trading Standards Dept. The Library (or LRC) acquires new CD Roms for potential university applicants in Y12/13.

Nineteen students gain Red Cross certificates in first aid for their DoE awards after expert tuition by Mrs Julia Hall, formerly Head of Biology here. The AGS Annual Music Competition is scheduled for 10th March.

News arrives that the Secretary of State has agreed to AGS having three forms of entry from 1997, with associated funding for new buildings. Contractors start work on new technology block.

Forty-eight French students arrive on their exchange from Le Loroux Bottereau. Mary Harries and Sarah Bratton (both Y12) are selected for the Warwks Cross Country team. The 1st Rugby XV play a touring team from the Republic of South Africa. Kate Lisle (Y11) captains the Warwks U16 Hockey squad on numerous occasions. Jemma Houghton (Y11) sets a series of records

in the National Swimming Championships for the Disabled at Darlington. Although visually handicapped she takes five national junior records and eight gold metals. The Y7 Hockey team beats Moatfield Middle School.

In a series of Hockey tournaments, the U14 team win the South Warwks round, the U17 reach the semi-final and the 1st XI are champions in their local league (again). Netball teams have further successes : U13 reach the Warwks semi finals. In the Police tournament the 'A' team reach the semi final and the B team is runner up in its section.

Geography students attend a lecture at the University of Birmingham on Urban Geography. They also go off on the annual field course at Marle Hall in North Wales. Olivia Powis, Annalie Croft, Charlotte Payne, Alison Blades and David Last gain Grade 8 in examinations on their various instruments. Fourteen students attend a Chemistry revision conference in Birmingham, and three others go to a Science/Technology Day at the University of Warwick. Year 12 English and Theatre Studies students attend a day of workshops at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham.

Matthew Beech (Y13) wins a scholarship with Raleigh International to go on an expedition to Belize after his A level exams. Kate Richards, Jonathan Morgan and Sam Sproxton are awarded places at Oxford, and Sharon Hardy wins an Open Scholarship to do Biology at Aberystwyth. Sarah Berry (Y7) wins the Art Prize in the U13 section of a competition associated with Blenheim Palace. She made a 2D sculpture of the palace and was presented with her prize by the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough after tea at the palace.

Daniel Hartwell, Jill Misson and Sharon Hardy are awarded their DoE Bronzes, and two groups go to Cumbria for their Silver practice expeditions. The LRC acquires even more CD Roms.

The production of *Cold Comfort Farm* is a great success at the School.



## Summer Term 1995

Zowie Hay (Y9) and Sam Parker (Y8), win prizes in a competition organised by Warwks County Library Service. Trips go to the Loft Theatre, Leamington and the RST. Y12 students take part in a weekend workshop on *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

AGS students go to France on the annual exchange visit. Katy Lisle (Y11) is selected for U17 Hockey training for Warwickshire, and Emma Mason (Y10) acts as one of two Junior judges at the Belgian National Skipping Championships in Ghent. In the Milk Cup Field and Track event, Junior and Inter Girls teams finish second. A party of Y7, Y8 and Y9 students visit the Hockey Centenary International at Sheffield. Parties of our students visit Wimbledon and the Edgbaston Tennis Tournament.

More distinction in Music is awarded. Olivia Powis (Y12) is accepted by the English Chamber Youth Orchestra after an audition. An Afro-Brazilian group runs a percussion workshop for Y9. AGS students take place in a String Spectacular at the Warwick Arts Centre. Mr. Dobell is appointed Honorary Local Representative for the Stratford Centre of the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music. Maria Daniels (Y7) wins the Warwickshire Cup for violin at the Trinity College of Music.

The DoE "Bronze Group" completes its training and looks forward to its qualifying expedition. Seventy pupils take part in a sponsored work-out to raise funds for "Help the Aged". The Christian group "Livewire" visits the school.

The Junior Drama production *The Burston Drum* (about the famous Burston school strike in Norfolk) and the *Absolute Beginners* anthology *Culture and Cliché* are presented and prove to be outstanding successes.

The term ends with the departure of several long serving teachers - see the *Staff News* section for details.

## ***Liberty Beat Autumn 1994***

This was an odd show; for the first time , except for a concert performance of *Dido and Aeneas*, a fully sung production was attempted - an opera in fact!The *Absolute Beginners* eventually enjoyed it very much and even the audience reported back favourably. As usual there was a great rush to get it somewhere near finished, and David Last, our new Musical Director, accomplished fantastic things with the cast. King Arthur, (James Horn), was scathing about his hastily constructed costume, but nevertheless sang very well, though much lower than Sarah Jeffery's melodious Queen Guinevere. The evil Saxons were repulsive in black balaclavas and fox furs, especially the coy Jon Morgan and exceptionally hairy Alex Comer, who succumbed ungracefully to Zoë Morgan and Becci Fogarty as the least moral of Camelot's young ladies.

The other young ladies were delightful if devious, in "Snowdrop, cow...." and Merlin (James Smith) was hauntingly mysterious, but not as pretty as Anna Jinks as Queen Morgause. I could go on, but the least said about the traffic cone tree and the projected noble horses the better.

Yet still on dark night at an Absolute Beginners Party can be heard the stirring refrain of *Lift us High and lift us together*'.

A very individual show..... and we made money.

**JAG**

## **Sports Day Results, July 1995**

### **Junior Boys**

100m Y7	1 S. Hale (W)	2 B. Fletcher (S)	3 R. Harper (S)
100m Y8	1 T. Marshall (N)	2 C. Robertson (W)	3 A. Drew (S)
200m	1 C. Robertson (W)	2 M. Hatton (W)	3 T. Billyard (S)
400m	1 T. Marshall(N)	2 T. Poulteney (W)	3 L. Lewis (W)
800m	1 A. Drew (S)	2 T.Coates (S)	3 G. Platt (N)
1500m	1 D. Hawkes (S)	2 H. Philpotts (W)	3 B. Fletcher (S)
4X100 "A"Race	1 Newport	2 Spencer	3 Wells

4X100 "B"Race	1	Spencer	2	Wells	3	Newport
Long Jump	1	D. Hawkes (S)	2	A. Drew (S)	3	M. Hatton (W)
High Jump	1	T. Coates (S)	2	L. Lewis (W)	3	J. Allen (N)
Shot	1	A. Lea (N)	2	T. Billyard (S)	3	J. Haynes (S)
Discus	1	S. Horrocks (S)	2	L. Lewis (W)	3	S. Carr (W)
Javelin	1	B. Furlow (W)	2	D. Kerby (S)	3	S. Hayward (W)
Cricket Ball	1	J. Harries (S)	2	J. Billingsley (S)	3	G. Platt (N)
Hurdles	1	D. Prickett (S)	2	S. Hale (W)	3	D. Ross (N)

### Junior Girls

100m Y7	1	J. Gilbert (S)	2	R. Bednall (N)	3	E. Bratt (W)
100m Y8	1	A. Carter (S) *	2	K. Morriss (W)	3	S. Nicholls (S)
200m	1	R. Boyall (N)	2	G. Duffill (W)	3	S. Nicholls (S)
300m	1	L. Boyce (W)*	2	L. Watts (W)	3	L. Smith (N)
800m	1	G. Collins (S)	2	L. Hall (W)	3	M. Pick (S)
1500m	1	G. Collins (S)	2	A. Vater (S)	3	K. Morriss (W)
4X100 "A"Race	1	Spencer	2	Newport	3	Wells
4X100 "B" Race	1	Spencer	2	Newport	3	Wells
Long Jump	1	R. Boyall (N)	2	R. Palmer (S)	3	J. Gilbert (S)
High Jump	1	A. Carter (S)	2	C. Joyce (N)	3	A. Vater (S)
Shot	1	E. Knox	2	L. James (S)	3	B. Fleming (W)
Discus	1	G. Duffill (W)	2	J. Hill (W)	3	L. James (S)
Javelin	1	L. James (S)	2	E. Knox (S)	3	J. Taylor (S)
Rounders Ball	1	M. Richards (M)	2	J. Taylor (S)	3	R. Oldham (N)
Hurdles	1	A. Carter (S)*	2	C. Joyce (N)	3	K. Harris (W)

### Inter Boys

100m Y9	1	J. Davies (S)	2	T. Port (S)	3	C. Buckle (N)
100m Y10	1	O. Raison (S)	2	M. Seeney (W)	3	P. Hallahan (W)
200m	1	O. Raison (S)	2	T. Port (S)	3	M. Seeney (W)
400m	1	R. Clayton (S)	2	I. Hickman (S)	3	D. Carrivick (N)
800m	1	S. Haynes (S)	2	S. Lockren (S)	3	J. Williams (N)
1500 m	1	J. Bowler (S)	2	D. Carrivick (N)	3	J. O'Korafor (W)
4X100 "A"Race	1	Spencer	2	Wells	3	Newport
4X100 "B" Race	1	Wells	2	Newport	3	Spencer
Long Jump	1	J. Bowler (S)	2	O. Raison (S)	3	M. Seeney (W)
High Jump	1	J. Bowler (S)	2	R. Stanford (W)	3	S. Grinstead (S)
Shot	1	C. Buckle (N)	2	I. Hickman (S)	3	J. Davies (W)
Discus	1	R. Stanford (W)	2	S. Haynes (S)	3	J. Cooke (W)
Javelin	1	S. Haynes (S)	2	S. Grinstead (S)	3	T. Coles (W)

**Inter boys continued**

Hurdles	1 R. Clayton (S)	2 R. Stanford (W)	3 B. Joyce (N)
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**Inter Girls**

100m Y9	1 K. Sergeant (S)	2 K. Saunders (W)	3 T. Wightman (N)
100m Y10	1 C. Greening (N)	2 C. Neville (N)	3 M. Goodall (S)
200m	1 C. Neville (N)	2 K. Sergeant (S)	3 L. McFarlane (N)
300m	1 E. Wakeling (W)	2 F. Gibson (W)	3 A. Kerr (N)
800m	1 E. Wakeling (W)	2 H. Marshall (S)	3 E.. Villis (S)
1500m	1 R. Key (W)	2 M. Goodall (S)	3 L. McFarlane (N)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Newport	2 Wells	3 Spencer
4X100 "B" Race	1 Newport	2 Spencer	3 Wells
Long Jump	1 R. Key	2 L. McFarlane (N)	3 R. Foster (S)
High Jump	1 K. Sergeant (S)	2 J. Boots (W)	3 W. Curtis (S)
Shot	1 A. Kerr (N)	2 K. Fletcher (S)	3 K. Popplewell (N)
Discus	1 A. Kerr (N)	2 E. Blackman (W)	3 H. Marshall (S)
Javelin	1 B. Taylor (W)	2 A. Price (S)	3 F. Gibson (W)

**Senior Boys**

100m	1 J. Davies (N)	2 J. Bingham (N)	3 P. Griffiths (S)
200m	1 R. Parker (W)	2 J. Bingham (N)	3 A. Tither (S)
400m	1 J. Murnieks (W)	2 A. Haden	3 R. Abbott (S)
800m	1 R. Parker (W)	2 P. Powell (W)	3 T. Vincent (N)
1500m	1 R. Green (W)	2 J. Carrivick (N)	3 A. Kendry (N)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Spencer	2 Wells	3 Newport
Long Jump	1 J. Bingham (N)	2 J. Murnieks (W)	3 A. Tither (S)
High Jump	1 T. Heneghan (W)	3 A. Tither (S)	3 J. Davies (N)
Shot	1 J. Higgins (W)	2 S. Dewsbury	3 D. Emmerson (N)
Discus	1 L. Symmons	2 P. Griffiths (S)	3 J. Higgins (W)
Javelin	1 R. Parker (W)	2 J. Davies (N)	3 S. Harrison (N)

**Senior Girls**

100m	1 M. Stanley (W)	2 K. Hubner (N)	3 K. Fox (W)
200m	1 M. Harries (W)	2 K. Oldham (W)	3 C. Wildin (S)
300m	1 M. Harries (W) *	2 S. Harries (S)	3 R. Garner (W)
800m	1 S. Harries (S)	2 K. Johnsey (W)	3 M. Stanley (W)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Wells	2 Spencer	3 Newport
Long Jump	1 S. Harries (S)	2 M. Harries (W)	3 L. Howes (N)
High Jump	1 M. Stanley (M)	2 K. Johnsey (W)	3 L. Howes (N)
Shot	1 Z. Morgan (S)	2 E. Huckall (N)	3 S. Clayton (N)

Javelin	1 L. Tevenan (W)	2 Z. Corbett	3 L. Davies (N)
Discus	1 A. Jinks (W)	2 Z. Morgan (S)	3 S. Jeffery (N)

### Overall Result

1 Spencer (555 pts)	2 Wells (520 pts)	3 Newport (441 pts)
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### Many Inspectors Call .....

By the beginning of September 1994 we all, staff and students, knew that the *Ofsted* inspection of the school was to take place in November. The Senior Management Team and Heads of Department had been working for months preparing the mound of paper work which, like some tribute to an implacable deity, was required as *Ofsted's* due. Students were told what to expect, the "Registered Inspector" in charge of the team visited the school to talk to the staff, and to hold a meeting to ask the parents for any complaints (there weren't any of note). But these were only preliminaries.

We knew that things were getting serious when a large van arrived to take our paper mountain away for the inspecting team to study. Then we came in one Monday morning in December, to see that a sort of shed had appeared on the lawn in front of the school. Wired up with cables and equipped with computers, fax machines and other aspects of high technology (not to mention kettles, crockery and other kitchen equipment - even inspectors need a cup of tea occasionally), it was the inspectors' base of operations for five school days. The inspection was under way at last.

They looked at everything, attended innumerable lessons, talked to students and ancillary staff, inspected the boiler room, joined assemblies, studied the accounts as if embezzlement was our chief extra-curricular activity, observed games matches, grilled the Senior Management Team with great thoroughness, and generally turned the place inside out.

By Wednesday the teachers were getting used to it all, even to having strange types (perhaps 'stranger types than usual' would be a better way to put it) turn up to attend their lessons. The Christmas holiday seemed to lie in a future era,

a sort of promised land which we would never see. Then on Thursday, things began to ease off. Members of the team drifted off to prepare for their next inspection far away. Friday was almost quiet, with departments being "de-briefed", that is, being told what the inspectors thought of their efforts. It all seemed surprisingly favourable.

Finally on the Friday evening, Mr Shearn came into the Staff Room, to tell us that the Registered Inspector had found almost everything to his liking. We had been tested in the fire and found to be fit and sufficient. Everyone went home feeling cheerful. A few formalities, such as the full written report were to be awaited, but the tough part was over. A sense of relief was detectable.

The report when it arrived was a jolly good one, and there were congratulations all round. Only the Alcester Chronicle got it wrong; "Inspectors Slate Grammar School over Safety" were the headlines (or something of the sort), but it turned out to be a case of mistaken identity on the part of the reporter assigned to the task, and a handsome apology was published the following week. And that was more or less that. We had survived, possibly even emerged from the battle with flying colours. Inspection 1994 was over but we could not relax too thoroughly. The inspectors are due back in 1998 !

*CJJ*

## **Leavers and Their Destinations, July 1995**

Brett Allard, year out; Jenny Armitage, San Sebastian Univ. Spanish and Spanish Culture, one year course; Teresa Arnott, Manchester Metropolitan, Social Science; Louise Ashenford, deferred entry to London College of Fashion; Rachel Ashfield, Worcester HE College, Geography; David Baker, Plymouth, Geography; Simon Bartholomew, Sheffield, Geography with Maths; Steven Baylis, Univ. of N. London Computing; Matthew Beech, Year out - Operation Raleigh; Matthew Bentley, Stratford College/work Business Admin; Sarah-Jane Blake, City University, London Music; William Bowring, Edinburgh Artificial Intelligence; Guy Brinton, Liverpool Radiation Physics and Environmental Science; Catherine Brown, Manchester Landscape Planning/Mgmt; Sharon Burgess, Bristol Mathematics; Claire Burgoine, Univ. Central England

Business Studies; Jenny Butler, Cheltenham & Glouc Coll. Human Geography; Katy Butterell, Kingston, History of Ideas; Rachel Carr, Univ. Central Lancashire, Combined Honours; Neil Carter, Univ. of Wales Electrical & Electronic Engineering.; Yu Ming Chan, Imperial College, Biology with Management; Kara Chisholm, Keele, German and Business Admin; Jo Clark, MWCFE, Art Foundation; Nikki Cook, Worcester College Re-sits; Libby Cooper, MWCFE, Art Foundation; James Cox, In employment; Emma Crean, Employment with Lancome plus Stratford Coll. Computing course; Dawn Davies, Exeter, Maths and French; Helen Davis, Cheltenham & Glouc Coll. Teacher training; Chris Deeks, London, Maths & Statistics; Johnathan Dover, year out; Neil Edden, Leicester, De Montfort 3D Design; Sarah Edwards, Southampton, French & German; Alexandra Ellsom, Hull, Modern Languages; James Ferris, year out - currently in employment; Toby Fisher, Cheltenham & Glouc Coll. Geography; Becky Fogarty, Glasgow, English & Drama; Helena Franczuk, MWCFE, Art Foundation; Alison Fraser, Nottingham Trent, Broadcast Journalism; Diane Freeman, Leeds Food Science; Paul Gilks, Central Lancashire, Business Management; Alicia Gold, Bolton Inst. H.E., Textiles; Christian Goodhand, AGS re-sits; Samantha Gould, R.N. Coll Plymouth, Operator Mechanic training; Matthew Gwynn, Nottingham Trent, Business Studies; Sharon Hardy, Aberystwyth, Biology; Hannah Harrison, Bristol West of England, European Studies; Sarah Harwood, deferred entry Nursing course; Laura Hayes, Cardiff, Education; Zoë Hayward, Cardiff, Spanish & German; Luke Henderson, Humberside, European Audio Visual Production; Lucy Heneghan, Luton Travel & Tourism; Paul Hickman, Imperial College, Chemistry; Helen Holdsworth, year out; Lucy Homer, seeking employment; James Horn, Aberystwyth Art History & Drama; Ian Horton, Nottingham Trent, Civil Engineering; Lynette Horwood, Manchester Metropolitan, Sports Science; Matthew Housman, Buckingham College, Project 2000 (Nursing); Nikki Humphrey, Birmingham Conservatoire, Music; Charlotte Ingram, destination unknown; Dominic Jinks, Swansea, English/Media/Drama; Lisa Johnsey, deferred entry to Swansea for Chemistry; Martin Johnson, York, Chemistry, Resources and the Environment; Charles Kay, Newcastle, Maths and Physics; Patrick Lamb, Severn-Lamb, Trainee engineer; Jo Lisle, year out; Andy Maher, Coventry, Psychology & Computer Studs.; Faye Marchant, year out; Philip Marton, deferred entry to Manchester for Mech. engineering; Emma Massey, Manchester, Law with French ; Philip McCarthy, Bath, Mathematics; David McElroy, AGS, Re-sits; Claire McKendry, Kingston, Sociology; Catherine McLaren, AGS, Re-sits; Margaret McLaren, year out before Nursing; Julia Moody, Bristol West of England, French & Spanish; Jonathan Morgan, Balliol Oxford, Law; Rachel Moulson, Stratford College, Re-sits; Andrew Munton, Camborne School of Mines, Industrial Geology; Hannah Nardini, self employed designer; Rebecca Neville, year out; Jacqui Newby, year out; Daisy Newey, year out; Andrew Palliser year out; Robert Parker, deferred entry to Bangor for Computer Systems Engineering; Jessica Paul, Nottingham Trent, French and German with

Communication Studies, James Penfold, deferred entry to Loughborough for Engineering; Lisa Pennells, Kent Music & Sports Science; Steven Perks, Portsmouth, Accountancy; Paul Phillips, Nottingham Trent, Humanities; Julia Pickering, Birmingham Environmental Science; Jamie Pinfield, deferred entry to Manchester for Geology; Hannah Pugh, deferred entry to Plymouth for Spanish & International Business Studies; Margaret Reid, Re-sits at MWCFE.; Hannah Rees, Central Lancashire Geography/Race & Ethnic Studies/American Studies; Kate Richards, Brasenose, Oxford, Pure Maths & Philosophy; Stuart Robson, year out in employment; Paul Sage, Derby, Computer Studies; Nicola Saint, London, Maths with Psychology; David Selby, Bradford, Mechanical Engineering; Heidi Silvester, Lancaster, Management & French; Hayley Simpson, in employment; Andrew Smith, Coventry, Manufacturing Systems Engineering; Jo Snoswell year out in employment; Sam Sproxtton, St. Anne's Oxford, Modern Languages; David Squirrel, Nottingham, Chemistry; James Stacey, deferred entry; James Staton, Swansea, English with Media/Drama ; James Taylor, University of Wales, History; Annie Thacker, London, HND Nursing; Claire Lancaster, English/Art (with qualified teacher status); Paul Vickery, Bournville College, Art Foundation; Philip Viner, Leicester De Montfort, Design Management; Louise Wakelam, deferred entry to Glamorgan for Humanities/Psychology; Gemma Ward, Worcester College of HE BA with qualified teacher status; Steven Wasley, Keele, Maths with Management Science; Sarah Whale deferred entry to Nottingham Trent for Chemistry in Europe; Elizabeth White, Bath, Mathematics; Hannah Williams, deferred entry to Birmingham for Geography; Richard Williams, Oxford, Re-sits; Vicky Williams, Stratford College, Re-sits; Dmitri Wychrij, deferred entry to Leeds for Geography, Bev Wye, Humberside, Psychology & Computing, Aniela Wyspianska, East Anglia, English & Comparative Lit.

## Summary Of Examination Results Summer 1995

### GCSE Results Achieved by Y11

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	%A-C
English	66	2	19	32	13				100%
Eng.Lit	66	3	13	25	22	3			95%
Mathematics	66	12	17	23	13	1			98%



Double Sci,	10			4	2	4				60%
Biology	61	7	16	19	18	1				98%
Chemistry	61	8	15	17	19	1	1			97%
Physics	61	4	16	24	17					61%
History	42	5	6	17	11	3				93%
Geography	54	11	12	17	12	2				96%
French	54	11	20	15	5	1	1	1		94%
German	37	4	15	11	3	3	1			89%
HEFT	12	3	4	5						100%
Art & Design	39	1	9	12	13	2	2			90%
Music	24	6	9	7	1	1				96%
Design Tech.	66	3	3	11	29	9	3			65%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>93.2%</b>

Average number of A-C grades per candidates = 10.15

### A Level Results Achieved by Y13

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	%A-E	%A-B
Art with										
Art History	20	4	7	5	4	1			100	52
Biology	14	3	5	1		2	2	1	79	57
Chemistry	19	6	5	5	2		1		95	58
Physics	28	7	3	4	4	6	2	2	86	36
Design Tech.	2			1		1			100	
Economics	11		1		2	4	4		64	9
English	43	3	6	13	15	5	1		98	21
French	23	2	3	8	4	5	1		96	22
Geography	36	10		6	5	6	8	1	75	28
German	7	1	1	4		1			100	29
History	19	3	2	8	3	2	1		95	26
Mathematics	39	21	11	3	3	1			100	82
Further Maths	4	1	2	1					100	75

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	%A-E	%A-B
Music	4	4	1	1	1	1			100	25
HEFT	11	9	2						100	100
Theatre Studs	15	1	1		4	3	4	2	60	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>89.9</b>	<b>40.9</b>

#### Exam Result continued

Gen Studs	29		2	5	8	8		5	79	7
<b>Total inc</b>										
<b>Gen Studs</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>37.8</b>

#### AS Results Achieved by Y13

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	%A-E	%A-B
Art & Design	2					2			100	
Business Studs	11			3	4	4			100	
Chemistry	2		1			1			100	50
Computing	12	1	3	3	1	4			100	25
Design Tech.	8		1	2	2	2	1		87.5	12.5
Electronics	6	3				2	1		83	50
French	7		1	5			1		86	14
Human Geog.	10	1	2	3		3			90	30
Physical Geog.	6	1			1	1	2		50	17
Geology	12	1	2	2	5	1	1		92	25
History	8		1	3	2		2		75	12.5
Mathematics	16		2		2	4	2	4	50	12.5
Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	%A-E	%A-B
Statistics	9	3		3	2	1			100	33
<b>Totals</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>82.5</b>	<b>21.1</b>

## Old Scholars' News

### Degree Results 1995

*All students are from the cohort 1985-92 unless otherwise stated*

Melanie Ellis (1988-91) BSc class 1 in Chemistry with French at Liverpool;

**Jonathan Cooper** BSc class 1 in Chemistry at Oxford; **John Kemp** BEng class 2.2 in Engineering at Leicester; **Alison Bradley** BA class 2.2 in French and German at Aberystwyth; **Johnnie Chan** , BSc class 2.2 in Mathematics and computing at Bath; **Vicki Bartholomew**, BSc class 3 in Maths & Business Studs at Bangor; **Sarah Butterell** (1990-92), BA class 2.1 in History at Hull; **Catherine McKay** (1989-91), MChem class 1 at Southampton; **Charmian Salisbury** (1989-92), BSc class 2.2 in Geography & Mgmnt. at Central Lancs; **Kate Head** (1986-92), BSc class 2.1 in Medical Science, UCL, London; **Julian Cole**, BSc class 1 in Mathematics at St Andrews. Julian also received the prize for the best student dissertation in Pure Maths; **Andrew King** BSc(Hons) at Portsmouth; **Matthew Startin**, BA class 3 in Architecture at Glasgow; **Ben Boxall**, BSc class 2.1 in Mathematics at Leicester; **Simon Brain** (1987-91), MA class 2.1 in International Relations and French at Aberdeen; **Alison Freeman** (1984-91), BA class 1 in Modern Langs. at Bradford; **Katarzyna Franczuk** (1989-91), BA class 2.2 in Russian at Birmingham; **Louise Kenney**, BSocSc in Social Policy at Birmingham; **Susan Roberts**, BSc class 1 in Mathematics at Birmingham; **Huw Davies**, BSc class 3 in Physics at Cardiff; **Jeremy Taylor** (1988-90), BSc class 2.1 in Horticulture at Reading; **Stuart Staples** (1990-92), BA class 2.1 in History at Southampton; **Dean Clifford** (1990-92), BA class 2.1 in Mathematics and Business Admin. at Aston; **Josephine Staples** (1989-91), BSc class 2.1 in International Agriculture and Equine Business Mgmnt. at the Royal College of Agriculture; **Clare McCarthy**, BA class 2.1 in English at Leeds; **Barrie Gill**, BA class 2.1 in Geography and Economics at Central Lancs.

### ***Cold Comfort Farm***

The drama production in 1995, for the first time for some years, was a more or less straight play- *Cold Comfort Farm* by Paul Doust, adapted from the novel by Stella Gibbons.

Set in a dilapidated farmhouse somewhere in the Home Counties, the production provided splendid opportunities for slightly over the top performances for all concerned. The strange caste of characters, or more likely caricatures, included assorted country bumpkins, a dotty aunt, a revivalist preacher and an american movie magnate.

The plot, such as it was, was helped along by interesting stage effects. There were several cows, exploding clocks, a ballroom scene and a wedding, all

brilliantly managed by the stage crew. The actors produced their mummersetshire accents very well, and the whole thing roared along splendidly with never a dull moment and plenty of laughs.

**Cast** : *Flora Poste*, Jill Misson; *Aunt Ada*, David McElroy; *Elfine*, Carrie Heath; *Seth*, James Horn; *Judith*, Marisol Grandon; *Amos*, James Smith; *Reuben*, Christian Goodhand; *Urk*, Alex Comer; *Rennet*, Zoë Morgan; *Mrs Hawk-Monitor*, Flossie Heyland; *Adam*, Jonathan Morgan; *Mr Neck*, William Bowring; *Richard Hawk-Monitor*, Andrew Haden; *Charles*, Martin Johnson; *Sneller*, Guy Lock.

**Cows and Chorus** : Miriam Stanley, Sarah Jeffery, Claire Bowler, Lucy Jones.

**Chorus** : Jo Leather, Jessica Smith, James Higgins, Louise MacDonald, Becki White, Beth Tash, Jonathan Pickett, Nicholas Daffern, Andrew Haden, Martin Johnson.

**Crew** : *Technical Director*, Paul Hickman; *Stage Managers*, Andrew Maher and Paul Lunau; *Stage Hands*, John Austing, Sam Barlow, David Last, Andrew Kendry. **Special Effects and Lighting** : Ben Ewins and Chris Hill, Liz White, Paul Hickman, Matt Bentley, Annalie Croft. **Props** : Chris Kerr. **Sound** : Toby Fisher, Philip McCarthy, James Mellor. **Wardrobe** : Sarah Jeffery and Rachel Burgess. **Set Design** : Nikki Pryor, Jodie Burton, Kelly Taylor, Jane Cooper, Jeff Sealey, Matt Sparkes. **Musical Director** : David Last. **Refreshments** : Zoë Morgan and Liz White.

### ***Culture and Cliché***

*Absolute Beginners* continued the tradition of an end of year entertainment (started last year with the anthology *Love and Death*) with *Culture and Cliché* - a collation of party pieces of various kinds. There were monologues, solo singing, songs from various famous shows and all sorts of other engaging things too numerous to mention. Particularly impressive was the vigorous singing of the gentleman's chorus in *Nothing Like a Dame* from *South*

*Pacific.* In the interval, wine, fruit punch and strawberries and cream were served in the quad. It all made a splendid end to the school year again.

*CJJ*

### ***The Burston Drum***

*The Burston Drum* is based on a true story. In April 1914 a group of children went on strike in protest at the dismissal of their teachers, Kitty and Tom Higdon (Abbey Wright and Matt Smith). Kitty, with her enjoyable approach to education, and Tom, who organised the local community in a democratic way, came into conflict with the local authorities, led by Rev. Eland (Alan Law). Nearly one hundred members of years 7, 8 and 9 worked on this musical version of the story, which played to appreciative audiences over three nights. A number of pupils visited St. John's Museum, Warwick in order to research the schools of the period. The hard-working cast deserved their success with special mention of Lindsay Smith (Violet), Emily Villis (Mrs Philpott) and the scene stealing-farmers (Sam Grinstead, Steven Barratt and Alan Powell).

### **Games Results 1994-95**

#### **Boys Results**

**Rugby :** Sixteen matches were won out of fifty played, half of the victories being achieved by the 1st XV. Team Captains were 1st XV Johnathon Dover; U15 Ian Hickman; U14, Colin Buckle; U13, Tim Marshall & Ioan Rees; U12, Leon Lewis. Junior colours awarded to Colin Buckle. The 1st XV impressed Mr Cowell enormously by defeating the huge Birmingham school KES (Five ways) 5-0. So did the Y10 team for turning out 17 players week after week from a total of only 25 boys in the year. He would have given them all colours if he could!

**Soccer :** We played twenty-four matches and won ten. Captains were Stuart Robson (1stXI); Matthew Hickman (U16); Tom Coles (U15); Sean Tilley (U14); David Hawkes (U13); Leon Lewis (U12).

**Cross Country :** Both Senior Girls and Intermediate boys won their team events at the County Cross Country event in January. Senior colours to Ian Hickman, junior colours to Jason O'Korafor.

**Cricket :** Twenty-eight matches were played with seventeen resulting in a victory for AGS. Captains were Simon Lockren (Y10); Colin Buckle (Y9); Ben Furlow(Y8); George Platt (Y7).

### **Athletics (Girls and Boys)**

The Warwickshire combined events championship was the highlight of the year. It was held at Rugby, where Rob Parker came 1st in the senior boys, James Bowler 2nd, Ian Hickman 4th and the team 1st in the inter boys while Sam Grinsted came 3rd, as did the team in the junior boys. Alexis Carter came first in the junior girls and the team came 3rd. At the County Championships Sarah Bratton won the senior girls 1500, Sarah Harries won the senior girls 100 and 400 hurdles, Mary Harries won the inter girls 300 and Alexis Carter won the junior girls 100.

### **Girls' Results**

**Hockey :** The teams played forty-seven matches, won twenty-five and drew 6.

**Netball :** Forty-three matches were played with twenty-seven victories and two draws.

**Rounders :** There were thirty-eight matches and twenty-nine wins.

**Tennis :** Ten matches were played, resulting in 9 wins.

**Athletics :** In the TSB Schools Cup, AGS Junior Girls , and Inter Girls came second in their categories. In the South Warwickshire meeting at AGS, year 7 , 8 and 9 Girls came first in their categories.

## **Another Appeal**

*Remember that we are anxious to have all the news of Old Scholars that we can get, so please send it in writing to the school. We are interested in hearing how you have got on since you left the school, what you have been doing and where you are heading for.*

*Reports of births deaths and marriages are all welcome too, but please give full details, especially the years you were at AGS. In the case of degree results we wish to know which university awarded the degree, and the style or title of the subject which you studied in order to get it.*

**This ends Record No. 161**